

Columbia Planning Unit Forest Land Planning

Washougal

Informal Meeting, November 2, 2006

Summary of Input

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with its planning effort for forested state trust lands in the Columbia planning unit, which generally state trust ownerships through southwest Washington region – the Columbia River area including Rock Creek, Washougal, Larch, Elochoman, Skamokawa, Salmon Creek, Mount St. Helens area including Toutle, Siouxon, Speelyai, Merwin, Davis Creek, and scattered parcels throughout the planning area.

Information gathered from this and subsequent public meetings and other input will assist DNR in developing management strategies specifically for these areas. Following are comments / ideas about the two main subject areas gathered at the Washougal meeting attended by representatives of recreational and environmental groups, trust beneficiaries, and forest products representatives.

Recreation

- There are limited opportunities for mountain biking on steep, extreme trails.
- People recreate in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic area and do not want to see clear cuts.
- The Pacific Crest Trail and other trails are impacted visually if timber sale boundaries are close to the trails.
- There is interest in transferring all state trust lands within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area into Natural Resource Conservations Areas or applying special conservation management to them.

Habitat and Forest Management

- There is a concern with DNR's reforestation efforts on clear cuts near Three Corner Rock.
- Beaver Ponds are threatened by development along McCloskey Creek Road.
- DNR timber harvest activities impact vistas for miles within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.
- There is interest in DNR moving away from clear cuts and emphasize sustainable forest management through habitat protection, access, and sustainable harvesting.